

## **MINUTES**

### **City Council Meeting**

**Monday, April 19, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Pro-tem Shuman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Devotional & Pledge:** Richard Miller, Associate Pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church offered the opening prayer and Mayor Pro-tem Shuman invited everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Pro-tem Shuman said City Council held a Pre-Agenda Session prior to tonight's meeting. She said no decisions were made during the Pre-Agenda Session.

**Roll Call:** Mayor Pro-tem Shuman presided. City Council Members: Don Bethune, Gwyn Hall, Bowen Jones, Durward Motes, and Jimmy Spilliards.

**Members Absent:** Mayor Tennyson Holder and Councilmember Bessie Kicklighter.

**Staff:** Brian Johnson, City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Ben Brengman, IT/IS Director; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Randall Griffin, Public Works Director, Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief, Frank Clifton, Police Captain and Cory Salley, Assistant Finance Director;

**Staff Absent:** Clara Rouse, Finance Director; Nathan Mai-Lombardo, Planning Director and David Lyons, Chief of Police.

**Oath of Office:** City Attorney administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Jimmy Spilliards.

Councilmember Spilliards thanked Mayor, City Council, City Manager, friends, family and citizens for their support and having enough confidence in him to elect him to serve. He said I had plenty of help campaigning and I would to thank everyone for their help. He said I would like to thank J.J. Bellemare, the gentlemen I ran against, for his willingness to want to serve on council. He said we need more volunteers and citizens involved in our community.

Mayor Pro-tem Shuman welcomed Councilmember Spilliards back and said we all look forward to serving with you.

Mayor Pro-tem Shuman said Mayor Holder could not be here tonight, because he is recovering from surgery. She said Councilmember Kicklighter could not be here tonight, because her husband Randall is in the hospital.

**Employee of the Quarter:** City Manager said Officer Eddie Dicus could not be here tonight due to scheduling conflicts and Chief Lyons is attending a conference. He said we will present the employee of the quarter certificate at our next council meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Request to Address City Council:** City Manager said Ms. Myra White contact us this morning to let us know that she could not be here tonight, because she was in the hospital. He said she will be placed on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> agenda to address city council.

**City Council Minutes:** Councilmember Jones made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hall to approve the minutes as amended to show Jimmy Spilliards absent at the April 5, 2010 meeting. City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

**Received Staff Reports:**

IT/IS Director presented the Planning & Economic Development Department's Monthly Status Report in the absence of the Planning Director.

Human Resources Director presented the HR Department's Monthly Status Report.

Assistant Finance Director presented the Finance Department's Monthly Status Report in the absence of the Finance Director.

IT/IS Director presented the Information Technology Department's Monthly Status Report.

Parks & Recreation Director presented the Parks & Recreation Department's Monthly Status Report.

Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department's Monthly Status Report.

Water Operations Director presented the Water Operations Department's Monthly Status Report.

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's Monthly Status Report.

Captain Frank Clifton presented the Police Department's Monthly Status Report in the absence of the Chief of Police.

**City Manager Update:** City Manager said tomorrow is the day that the local bill goes before the State Senate to answer the question of whether or not Southbridge is annexed. He said the bill is for a dual referendum which will allow Southbridge residents to vote and the current Garden City residents to vote on the proposed Southbridge annexation. He said there has been over a year of dialogue and Southbridge came to us and requested to be annexed by Garden City. He said Southbridge studied all the options and there were at least three rounds of due diligence perform by Southbridge groups. He said on March 15, 2010, we received a formal letter of endorsement from the Southbridge Homeowners Association asking Garden City to submit local legislation for annexation into Garden City. He said tomorrow we find out if the bill passes. He said Senator Lester Jackson is the only one who has not committed to signing in support of the bill. He said Senator Buddy Carter is prepared to sign, but Senator Jackson still has not committed in anyway.

City Manager said the dual referendum is a democratic process to let the people decide by casting their vote. He said it will be very disappointing if the bill does not pass. He said the annexation would be a win-win for both Garden City and Southbridge. He said more people in Garden City means more sales

tax money. He said the more sales tax money that we receive helps us not to have to consider property tax in the near future.

Councilmember Hall asked if Senator Jackson expressed his concerns.

City Manager said not directly. He said at first he had a concern regarding minority representation if Southbridge was annexed into Garden City. He said we got that concern addressed. He said Savannah has expressed to Senator Jackson that they feel the annexation is moving to quick and there are some political influences being exerted behind the scenes.

Councilmember Hall said I have tried to contact Senate Jackson, but have not been able to speak with him. He said I would like to ask Senator Jackson to let the people decide.

City Manager said we are not asking him to say that Garden City is the best, but asking him to put the vote to the people.

**Items for Consideration:**

**Wetlands Protection Ordinance:** Clerk of Council read for the first reading an ordinance to amend Chapter 30 of the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to promote wetlands protection by adopting a generalized wetlands map; to provide for the withholding of land use and building permits in areas designated as wetlands until a jurisdictional wetland determination is completed; and to establish permitted and prohibited land uses within wetlands shown on the generalized wetlands map; to repeal ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effect date; and for other purposes.

City Manager said the wetlands protection ordinance is a state mandated ordinance that updates our current wetlands protection ordinance.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to approve the wetlands protection order on the first reading.

Councilmember Jones made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hall to suspend the rules of council to hold the second reading of the wetlands protection ordinance. City Council voted unanimously to suspend the rules of council and hold the second reading of the wetlands protection ordinance.

Clerk of Council read for the second reading an ordinance to amend Chapter 30 of the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to promote wetlands protection by adopting a generalized wetlands map; to provide for the withholding of land use and building permits in areas designated as wetlands until a jurisdictional wetland determination is completed; and to establish permitted and prohibited land uses within wetlands shown on the generalized wetlands map; to repeal ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effect date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Hall, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the wetlands protection ordinance on the second reading.

**Municipal Court Fine & Fees:** Councilmember Hall a made motion, seconded by Councilmember Motes to increase the fines and fees 4% across the board. City Council voted unanimously to increase the fine fees 4% across the board.

City Manager said this is to cover the administrative costs associated with people being able to pay their fines by credit card online.

**Resolution, Land & Water Conservation Grant:** City Manager presented a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a Pre-application for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Garden City further agrees that in the event the City's pre-application is recommended for funding by the Department of Natural Resources Garden City certifies and assures that it has the ability and intention to finance their 51 percent of the total project cost and will move forward with due diligence to prepare, or have prepared, appropriate documentation required for a formal LWCF application.

Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Spilliards, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

**Adjournment:** Upon motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Jones, City Council unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

**Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council**

**Adopted: May 3, 2010**